

Claims 2, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gale '423 in view of Pearson '790. According to the Office Action, it would have been obvious to modify the rope of Gale by making it a flat one as taught by Pearson in order to allow the pulleys to be lined with leather, making the system run quieter and avoiding slippage.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. First, the combination of Gale and Pearson is not proper because it would destroy the purpose and intent of Gale. As stated in Gale:

“[t]he present invention aims to overcome these and other objections by combining the use of *both belts and cables* (emphasis added) in such a way as to secure the advantages of each, while avoiding the disadvantages due to the use of either alone, and at the same time securing advantages not found in the use of either one alone.”

It is clear from the above text that purpose of Gale is to achieve the advantage of using flat leather belts for traction and steel cables for suspension. Therefore, Gale teaches away from the combination as suggested in the Office Action and such a combination destroys the intended objective of Gale.

Second, there is no motivation in the prior art to make this combination. The motivation cited in the Office action is to “allow the pulleys to be lined with leather, making the system run quieter and avoiding slippage”. However, Gale already suggests the use of leather lined pulleys (col. 2, lines 93-97), therefore there is no need to look to Pearson for this feature. Further, there is no indication that pulley noise is a concern or that this combination would run quieter. Finally, there is no motivation for inserting the flat ropes of Pearson in place of the steel suspension cables of Gale to avoid slippage. Since these are suspension cables and not traction cables, slippage is not an issue.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and allowance of Claim 2 and Claims 5 and 9, which depend from Claim 2.

Claims 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gale in view of Pearson as applied to claims 2, 5 and 9, and further in view of White.

For the reasons discussed above, the combination of Gale and Pearson is improper. Therefore, reconsideration of this rejection and allowance of Claims 6 and 10 is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gale in view of Pearson as applied to claims 2, 5 and 9, and further in view of Aulanko et al.

For the reasons discussed above, the combination of Gale and Pearson is improper. In addition, Aulanko et al. does not qualify as prior art under 102 since it was published less than one year prior to the filing date of this application and there is no indication that this document has a 102(e) date that predates the filing date of this application.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and allowance of Claims 13 and 14.

New Claims 16-28 have been added by this amendment. These claims are directed to similar subject matter as claims 2-14, but the language of the claims has been amended slightly to remove some excessive detail. Consideration and allowance of new Claims 16-28 is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fee for this statement to Deposit Account No. 15-0750, Order No. OT-4331.

Respectfully submitted,

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